

Remarks

By the foregoing amendment the claims have been amended to conform more closely with U.S. patent format. Claim 1 has been amended to specify the opposing lamella legs have openings and a second connecting element. Claim 2 has been cancelled. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by page 2, lines 11-12 of the specification. It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as it does not constitute new matter.

Claims 4-23 have been objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from other multiple dependent claims. The claims have been amended and new claims 24 and 25 have been added to the application to avoid improper multiple dependency.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph on the basis the language of the claims and specification is vague on how this strip is to be used or constructed. In this regard the Examiner's attention is invited to page 1, second paragraph and fourth paragraph, lines 16-23 of the specification.

Claims 1-20 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph on the basis "first connecting element" is unclear; "second connecting element" in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 17 is unclear, the term "lamella legs" claims 1 and 10 is unclear, the phrase "the second connecting element is a connecting web that is inclined by an angle of $W1$ " is unclear; the phrase "preferably" in claims 6, 14, 16, 19 and 23 is unclear; the phrase "with respect to the perpendicular to the longitudinal axis" in claims 8, 10, 13 and 14 is unclear; the phrase "0,5 mm" is unclear in claim 9; the word "section" in claims 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 is unclear; the phrase "parallel to the perpendicular to the longitudinal axis" in claim 13 is unclear; the phrase "5,4 mm" in claim 17 is unclear; the phrase "strip is respectively bent with respect to the longitudinal

axis” in claim 20 is unclear; claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 19 include both narrow and broad range recitations; the phrase “strip-like” in claim 13 is indefinite, there is no antecedent basis for “cut-out” in claim 5; and there is no antecedent basis for “aperture angle” in claim 8.

The Examiner’s attention is invited to page 2, lines 27-28 and element 13 of Fig. 1 which describe a first connecting element between adjacent lamellae. Similarly, with respect to the term “second connecting element” the Examiner’s attention is invited to page 2, line 30 to page 3, line 1 and element 16 of Figure 1.

With respect to the terms “lamella legs” the Examiner’s attention is invited to page 2, lines 28-20 and elements 11 and 12 of Figure 1.

The term “recess” or “recesses” have been deleted from the claims and “opening” or “openings” substituted therefore.

The term “web” has been deleted from claim 3 which recites that the second connecting element has edges inclined by an angle θ with respect to the longitudinal axis of the strip.

The terms “particularly” and “preferably” have been deleted from claim 4. Similarly, the phrase “preferably” has been deleted from claims 6, 14, 16, 19 and 23. Claims 8, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to indicate the elements are based off a perpendicular axis.

The phrase “0,5 mm” has been amended to “0.5 mm” in claim 9.

Claims 11 (11/12, 11/13, 11/14, 11/15) has been amended to recite each opening comprises at least one first section and one adjoining section.

The language “parallel to the” has been deleted from claim 13.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite “5.4 mm.”

Claim 20 has been amended to specify the strip is bent out of the plane of the longitudinal axis.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended to eliminate narrower statements of range/limitation.

The term "strip-like" has been deleted from claim 13.

With respect to the term "cut-out", claim 5 has been amended to indicate the strip further comprises this element.

Claims 6 has been amended to specify the cut-out is a gap having parallel sides.

Claim 8 has been amended to specify the cut out encloses a gap having an angle W_1 that is within the range of 2° to 30° from the perpendicular axis.

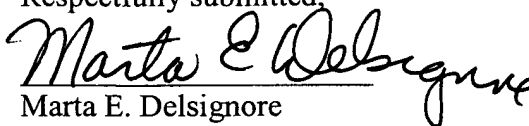
Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,306,522 to Strutz et al. Strutz et al. discloses a lamella strip having two oblong bead-like stamp marks (7) arranged on both sides of a center cut. There is no teaching or suggestion of lamella comprising two opposite lamella legs having at least two openings as in the claimed invention including new claims 24 and 25. Accordingly, Strutz et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing claims 1, 3-25, all the pending claims, are in proper form and in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOWN CHANGE MADE

1. (Amended) A strip having a plurality of lamellae which are interconnected via a first connecting element, each lamella comprising two opposing lamella legs and having at least two [recesses] openings extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the strip, at least one second connecting element being formed between the [recesses] openings wherein the second connecting element allows the strip to be compressed and/or extended towards the longitudinal axis of the strip.

Please cancel claim 2.

3. (Twice Amended) The strip according to claim 1 [or 2, wherein the second] the second connecting element having edges [connecting element is a connecting web that is] inclined by an angle $W[1] \text{ } \underline{O}$ with respect to the longitudinal axis of the strip, the angle WO being [preferably] in a range of 10° to 80° [, more preferably in a range of 30° to 70° , even more preferably in a range of 50° to 65° and most preferably 60°].

4. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims] claim 1 [to] or claim 3, wherein the second connecting element overlaps [is in the area of] the longitudinal axis of the strip and has [preferably] the same shape in each lamella[, and wherein it is particularly preferred that the second connecting elements of all lamellae have the same orientation].

5. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims] claim 1 [to 4] or claim 3, [wherein] further comprising at least one cut-out extending from the edge of the strip to the first connecting element [is], the cut-out arranged between two lamellae adjacent [in] along the longitudinal axis of the strip.

6. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims] claim 1 [to 5] or claim

3, wherein the first connecting element [is in the area of] overlaps the longitudinal axis of the strip and one cut-out is arranged [preferably] symmetrically to and on both sides of the longitudinal axis in the transverse direction, which cut-out [preferably forms] is a gap [with] having parallel [walls] sides, the width of the gap being [preferably] 1/10 to 1/20 of the length of the gap.

7. (Amended) The strip according to claim 5 or 6, wherein each cut-out is V-shaped and widens outwardly from the first connecting element towards the edge of the strip.

8. (Amended) The strip according to claim 7, wherein each cut-out is symmetrical with respect to [the] a perpendicular axis to the longitudinal axis and [has an aperture] encloses a gap having an angle $W1$ that is [preferably] within the range of 2° to 30° [, more preferably within the range of 3° to 15° , even more preferably within the range of 4° to 10° and most preferably 6°] from said perpendicular axis.

9. (Amended) The strip according to [any of claims 5 to 8] claim 5, wherein each cut-out is rounded in the area of the first connecting element and [preferably] forms an arc of a circle having a radius $R1$, the radius $R1$ being [preferably] in the range of 0.2 to 1.5 mm[, more preferably in the range of 0.4 to 1 mm and most preferably 0,5 mm].

10. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims 1 to 9] claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the [respective recesses] openings in the opposing lamella legs are mirror-inverted with respect to the perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the strip.

11. (Amended) The strip according to [claims 1 to 10] any one of claim 1 or claim 3, wherein each [recess is provided with] opening comprises at least one first section and one adjoining second section, the first section [preferably] expanding from the longitudinal axis of the strip towards the second section.

12. (Amended) The strip according to claim 11, wherein the first section of the [recess] openings is triangular and has a first side [essentially] extending towards the perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and a second side extending at an angle α with respect to the perpendicular, said angle being [preferably] in the range of 10° to 80° [, more preferably in the range of 30° to 70° , even more preferably in the range of 50° to 65° and most preferably 60°].

13. (Amended) The strip according to claim 12, wherein the second section [is strip-like with] includes sides that are [parallel to the] perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and [preferably] further comprising a third section that widens towards the edge of the strip and adjoins the second strip.

14. (Amended) The strip according to claim 13, wherein the third section is V-shaped and is [preferably] symmetrical [with the] about a perpendicular axis to the longitudinal axis and encloses an angle α which is [preferably] in the range of 2° to 30° [, more preferably in the range of 3° to 15° even more preferably in the range of 4° to 10° and most preferably 6°] from said perpendicular axis.

15. (Amended) The strip according to [any of claims 11 to 14] claim 13, wherein the [recess is provided with] opening comprises a fourth section and said section is spaced apart from the edge of the strip and rounded, and [preferably] semicircular with a radius R_2 that is [preferably] in the range of 0.5 to 5 mm[, more preferably in the range of 1 to 3 mm and most preferably 2 mm].

16. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims 1 to 15] claim 1 or claim 3, wherein each lamella [is provided with] has a straight edge and [the] corners which are [preferably] rounded [in the area of the transitions into the cut-out].

17. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims 1 to 16] claim 1 or claim 3, wherein each lamella has a width of 8 mm in the area of the edge and/or each cut-out has a width of [5,4] 5.4 mm in the area of the edge and/or the strip has a width of 39

mm and/or the width of the first connecting element perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is 5 mm and/or the width of the recess is at least 2 mm and/or the width of the second connecting element in the direction of its extension is 1.2 mm, each of the aforementioned values being variable by $\pm 50\%$ and the aforementioned values being proportionally increasable and decreasable.

18. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims 1 to 17] claim 1 or claim 3, wherein the strip has a thickness d that is [preferably] in the range of 0.1 to 2 mm[, more preferably 0.2 to 1 mm and most preferably 0.5 to 0.6 mm].

19. (Amended) The strip according to any of [claims 1 to 18] claim 1 or claim 3, [consisting of] wherein the strip is metal[, preferably steel and more preferably of aluminium].

20. (Amended) A skeleton strip having a U-shaped or V-shaped cross-section consisting of a strip according to any of [claims 1 to 19] claim 1 or claim 3, wherein said strip is [respectively] bent out of the plane of [with respect] to the longitudinal axis.

22. (Amended) A device for producing a strip according to any of [claims 1 to 19] claim 1 or claim 3, characterized by a respective punching die.

23. (Amended) A method for producing a strip according to [claims 1 to 19] any one of claim 1 or claim 3 comprising the steps of providing a strip which is [preferably] made of metal and punching [of the described recesses] portions thereof to form said openings.